

## HEINLEIN GENEALOGY

### BELL FARM

to Bell Farm. He said that since there was no school on the farm all school age children would walk about a quarter mile to the paved road where a school bus would pick them up and transport them to Pleasant View School. Ron said he got a work permit from the school when he was 14 years old and began working full-time at the farm as a tractor operator. As with most other farm employees, Ron said that he was not expected to do other jobs on the farm except in the few instances when weather conditions wouldn't permit the tractors to operate.

In 1931, Mrs. E. E. Reick, always active in church and social work, expressed concern for the spiritual welfare of those who lived and worked on the farm. No farm funds were available for construction of a church so Mrs. Reick committed her own personal funds to the project. She also invited any and all interested farm residents to help and there was a great response from the farm "family." The church known as "God's Church For All People, was completed in 1932.

Church services were held at the most convenient times for the dairymen and creamery men. Sunday evening services and prayer meetings were held weekly, as well as many other activities each week. One popular event was an annual Christmas party where a farm employee served as Santa Claus and all employees and their families would exchange gifts. Even farm owners, Mr. Reick and Mr. Nettrour, though they lived elsewhere, would attend services as often as possible. Many other area residents and tourists passing through would also attend.

In the early 1930's, C. F. Nettrour sold his interest in Bell Farm to Mr. Reick. Also, about this time, farm manager Harry Engle had health problems, which prevented him from continuing in his job and Mac Torrance was promoted to farm manager, a job he would hold until the farm was sold. Though his family made its home in Bellevue, Paul Nettrour, Jr., grandson of C. F. Nettrour and son of Superintendent Nettrour has many fond memories of Bell Farm. Mr. Nettrour recalls that early each spring, coinciding with the outbreak of childhood diseases in the city, his father would announce that it was "time to move to the farm." So all of his earliest summers were spent there. In the days before the parkway, Bell Farm to Pittsburgh was considered to be a half-day trip, either traveling to Imperial to Steubenville Pike through Crafton or to Sewickley and the Ohio River Boulevard; it probably would be have been inconceivable to farm residents of that time that anyone would ever travel to Pittsburgh via Carnegie as we now do daily via the expressway.